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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. 25X1A

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Rumania

DATE DISTR. 4 May 1949

SUBJECT Reported Attempts of Rumanian Communists
to Discuss with Members of Opposition the
Formation of Coalition Government

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. S. I. Kavtaradze, Soviet Ambassador to Rumania, is reported to have conferred recently with Ana Pauker, Foreign Minister, Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej, President of the Supreme Economic Council, Vasile Luca, Minister of Finance, and Prime Minister Petru Groza, outlining a plan for the formation in Rumania of a coalition government more acceptable to the West. Formation of such a coalition would be achieved primarily by inviting the participation of such members of the National Peasants Party as remained at liberty. Consideration was also given to the possible release from prison of such National Peasants as would be willing to adhere to a coalition government.
2. The Rumanian Communists selected Mihai Ghelmeigianu, former member of the National Peasants Party and presently a vice president of the Flowman's Front, to approach those former officials of the National Peasants Party who have not yet been in prison. On 8 April Ghelmeigianu interviewed Aristide Schileru, stating that he was officially charged with initiating an effort to form a coalition government and asking if Schileru, as a member of the National Peasants Party would be willing to participate. Schileru replied that he could not do so since his chief Iuliu Maniu was in prison at Galati, and he was certain that the Rumanian people would rally around Iuliu Maniu rather than any other figure.
3. According to source, the same offer to join a coalition government was then made to Maniu. The National Peasant leader refused to commit himself on the ground that he was not familiar with the current political situation in Rumania.

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mania, and asked for liberty to speak to the American and British representatives in Bucharest. Ghelmeianu replied that he was not empowered to grant such a request, but would convey it to his principals in the Government.

4. Source describes these maneuvers as a manifestation in Rumania of the Soviet peace offensive.

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